read by a beginner, and Cremona, as translated by Leudesdorf, seems rather unattractive, and certainly lacks the charm of Reye's lucid style.

It seems to us, therefore, that the translator has rendered a great service to English-speaking students in translating this first part of Reye, and we earnestly hope that sufficient interest in the study of pure geometry will be awakened by having this very attractive book available for beginners, to make him feel that his unselfish labor has not been in vain.

Whether it is worth while to translate the other parts also (Parts II. and III. carry the subject far beyond its elements) is, however, very questionable—because those of our students who are sufficiently advanced to understand the subjects treated are able to read the German about as readily as the English.

The translation itself is also, as a whole, to be heartily commended; the charm of the original has been preserved, many valuable exercises have been added, and the breaking up of the lectures into numbered paragraphs, as well as the rearrangement of the exercises so as to have those that are appropriate thereto follow each lecture, are distinct improvements.

It is, however, to be greatly regretted that the translator has seen fit to change a well-established and everywhere understood terminology. For example, he replaces the terms *pencil* and *sheaf* (which are already, and for many years have been, well-nigh universally employed to represent particular geometric concepts), respectively by the terms *sheaf* and *bundle*. While it may be granted that these new terms are in themselves just as good as, and possibly even a trifle better than, those for which they are substituted, yet nothing of importance is gained by the change, while the danger of confusion and misunderstanding is greatly increased.

J. H. Tanner.

Cornell University, October 4, 1899.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Bacteria. George Newman. New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons. London, John Murray. 1899. Pp. xiv + 348.

Cambridge Natural History. Vol. V. *Insects.* Part II. David Sharp. London and New York, The Macmillan Company. 1899. Pp. xii + 626.

A Dictionary of Birds. Alfred Newton, assisted by Hans Gadow. New York, The Macmillan Company. London, Adams & Charles Black. 1893–1896. Cheap issue, unabridged. Pp. iii + 1088. $5.00.

The Insect World. A Reading Book of Entomology. Clarence Moores Weed. New York, D. Appleton and Company. 1899. Pp. xvi + 210.

Indicators and Test-Papers. Alfred I. Cohn. New York, John Wiley & Sons. London, Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 1899. Pp. ix + 249.

A System of Medicine by Many Writers. Vol. VIII. *Diseases of the Nervous System.* Continued. Edited by Thomas Clifford Allbutt. New York and London, The Macmillan Company. 1899. Pp. xii + 937. $5.00.

SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS AND ARTICLES.

The Journal of Physical Chemistry, October, 'On the Paraanisaldoximes,' by H. R. Carveth: a study of the two modifications; 'On the Relation between Pressure and Evaporation,' by Edwin H. Hall; 'The Electrical Conductivity of Non-Aqueous Solutions,' by Azariah T. Lincoln: an account of the experimental work of the author, chiefly with chlorides (also silver and lead nitrates, silver and mercuric cyanids, mercuric iodid and copper sulfate), in a well-selected variety (27) of solvents, all organic except PCl_3 and $SuCl_4$. Some substances were insoluble, some insoluble but not conductors of electricity, while others conducted electricity well. Two conclusions of the author may be quoted: "The data collected are as yet insufficient to show what the relation between solvent and dissolved substance must be in order to yield solutions that conduct electricity." "The dissociation theory as promulgated for the explanation of the electrical conductivity of aqueous solutions, apparently cannot be applied in its present form to explain the conductivity in non-aqueous solutions." The article is an important contribution to the study of solutions.

J. L. H.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. SECTION OF BIOLOGY.

The regular meeting of the Section of Biology was held on Monday evening, October 9th, Professor Frederic S. Lee presiding. The